

CLEAN CLAIMS

1. In a process for preparing alkynediols by reacting ketones with acetylenic hydrocarbons selected from the group consisting of acetylene and alkynemonool in an organic solvent in the presence of a base comprising potassium alkoxides of primary and/or secondary alcohols to form adducts of alkynemonools and/or alkynediols and said base which precipitate from the reaction mixture, the improvement which comprises, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon acetylene in the ratio of ketone to acetylene from 1.9 to 2.1:1 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 0.9 to 2.1:1 and using as acetylenic hydrocarbon alkynemonool in the ratio of alkynemonool to ketone from 1: 0.8 to 1.2 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 1.5 to 2.2:1, so as to produce gel like adducts having a spherical surface, whereby the reaction mixture remains stirrable during the entire reaction.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon acetylene, it is used in a stoichiometric amount with regard to the ketone and ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 1:1 to 1.5:1.
3. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 1.1:1 to 1.3:1.
4. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein, using as acetylenic hydrocarbon alkynemonool the ratio of alkynemonool to ketone is within the range from 1:1 and the ratio of potassium alkoxide to ketone is within the range from 1.9:1 to 2.1:1.
5. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ketones selected from acetone, methyl isobutyl ketone and cyclohexanone are used.
6. A process as claimed in claim 5, wherein acetone is used as ketone.
7. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein hydrocarbons are used as solvents.

8. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the potassium alkoxides used are potassium butoxides.

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